

ToughTimes

EMAIL | TOUGHTIMESTABLOID@GMAIL.COM

Vol. 7 No.5/September-October, 2018



Our children are
HUNGRY
Who cares?

Just about everyone.

Many people care about all of our kids. Look inside for the views of Peel candidates in the municipal election October 22.

They care about what poverty does to people — kids, adults, old folk

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Municipal Election Special: Vote Monday, October 22

PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people. It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out – and *Tough Times* is part of that safe place. The Group's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Membership is free. PPAG meets at 9:30 a.m., usually the second Thursday of every month (except July and August) alternately in Mississauga at the Newcomer Centre of Peel, 165 Dundas St. W., at Confederation Parkway; in Brampton at Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA), 9 Wellington Street East.

Meetings for 2018:

Thursday, October 11, at Newcomer Centre of Peel, Mississauga, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 8, at PAMA, Brampton, at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 13, Newcomer Centre of Peel, Mississauga, 10:30 a.m.

www.ppag.wordpress.com

Homeless: The Video

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute video in which homeless people describe their experiences. A team from PPAG, including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge. To book a showing contact ppagactiongroup@gmail.com. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

You can buy *Spaces and Places* on a memory stick for \$50. Email ppagactiongroup@gmail.com or phone 905 826-5041.

AN ANTI-POVERTY ELECTION!

Cash-poor people in Peel Region have decisions to make that may affect their lives for the next four years.

They can choose the local mayors, councillors and school trustees who will decide on budgets and bylaws, taxes and trading and more, until 2023.

Voting day is October 22.

Tough Times is Peel's only social justice newspaper, tries to serve the interests of people in Peel who are not rich. Knowing that some of the people who run for office are among our target readership, *Tough Times* offered to publish, at no charge, a photo, contact information, and 120 words about the candidate's views on poverty in Peel and in their own wards and what they would do about it.

The offer was sent to all candidates that *Tough Times* could reach by email.

We did not reach all 307 candidates, but within a few days, 50 had sent in their 120 words for publication.

The results are here in this special municipal election issue of *Tough Times*.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this election issue of *Tough Times*. Your names are on the work you did.

Read on.

...

The mayors of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon were invited to write columns. Patrick Brown, seeking to be mayor of Brampton, was also invited to write a column. He didn't. Other mayoral candidates were invited to write 120 words on poverty, and some did.

...

Questions came in.

Here are some to try out at all-candidates meetings, or when your local politician is on your doorstep:

Housing, basic income pilot, cuts in raise of ODSP and OW

I would like to hear what the candidates say about requiring builders to include a percentage of builds to be affordable housing. Also, we should ask them how

they will meet the challenges of all the people who will be adversely affected by Doug Ford's cancelling the Basic Income Pilot and also his cutting of the measly raise to ODSP and OW rates by half.

Annamarie Bobus, Brampton

Questions from labour

Do you support a "buy local, buy Canadian" strategy and how will you ensure that local councils follow such a strategy?

What should local councils do to promote stable employment and quality jobs?

What will you do to ensure positive labour relations, including collective bargaining rights, for employees of council and those of outside firms under contract?

Do you think public assets like hydro, water utilities, and schools should be sold off?

Road safety, pedestrian and cyclist safety, safety for homeless populations, violence against women, etc.

What will you do?

Affordable housing:

Most emergency housing such as shelters, transitional housing, in Peel are at capacity. Over 13,000 households in Peel are on a housing waitlist. Rent and mortgages are skyrocketing. What will you do?

Fixing teeth:

Only 30% of cash-poor people in Peel have dental insurance. Seniors have limited access through Peel Seniors Dental Program. Provincial dental programs for kids don't cover all kids or all services. Public dental for adults covers only those on social assistance. What will you do to extend service?

Clients of Bramalea Community Health Centre

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

KNIGHTS TABLE • Wednesday, October 17
6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
287 Glidden Road, Brampton
(east off Kennedy Rd., just north of Steeles Ave.)
Everyone invited

ToughTimes

ToughTimes

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Please email letters to:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

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Advertising Rates

Tough Times distributes 10,000
copies, throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people
experiencing homelessness, using
food banks and soup kitchens,
people who are struggling,
plus faith groups, social service
agencies, trades unions, business
people, and the general public.

To advertise in Tough Times:

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Advertising rates: (colour included)

Business card: \$90
1/16 page: \$100
1/8 page: \$155
1/4 page: \$240
1/2 page: \$430
3/4 page: \$600
Full page: \$755

A full page is approximately 10 inches
wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square
inches. E&OE

BY LINDA JEFFREY

Over the last two decades serving as an elected official in Brampton, I have learned that those living on a low-income have fewer opportunities to fully participate in important activities we all take for granted, like work and education.

Over time, studies show that those who live on a low-income frequently experience poorer health and I've committed a lot of my political career to changing those negative health outcomes by taking positive steps.

Earlier this year Brampton Transit began participating in the Region of Peel's Affordable Transit Program. This program is a partnership between the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton, and the City of Mississauga to offer a 50% discount on the regular cost of a monthly pass to eligible applicants. Brampton residents with an income below the Low Income Measure (LIM) thresholds are eligible to apply for the subsidy by visiting www.peelregion.ca/affordabletransit

Applications are accepted first come, first served.

I first learned about a program called Hammer Heads when I served as Minister of Labour in the Ontario government. I met some of the students who participated in the program and remember being so impressed with the opportunity these young people had and how much I wanted to find a way to support the work they do. Hammer Heads is a 12-week skills development program that introduces youth to several different construction trades

Poverty is a health issue



Linda Jeffrey

while developing skills important to successful long-lasting careers in construction. All applicants (female and male must be aged between 18 and 26 and reside in the GTA with a minimum of Grade 10 Math, English and Science credits.)

The program includes safety training, hands-on skills development, mentoring and coaching and represents a life-changing journey for our participants. hammerheadsprogram.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Fall-2018-Application-Form.pdf

Brampton has a high incidence of diabetes, particularly in low-income neighbourhoods, so it is important

to have access to good health care. Municipalities can help to deliver better outcomes by expanding transit, providing more recreation services as well as the provision of more side-walks and parks to encourage physical activity.

Participation in our recreation programs can be an expense that some families can't afford, which is why the City of Brampton created ActiveAssist. It involves a fee subsidy to help low-income families and individuals in Brampton participate in Recreation programs. Confidentiality is always maintained.

This assistance is in the form of a credit to your account. Once your application is approved each family member on your application will receive: A credit of \$275/person, per 12-month period. Once approved, you qualify for the program for two years. Contact the City at activeassist@brampton.ca for more information.

When money is tight, sometimes visits to the dentist just don't happen – but dental health is important to overall health and well-being. Dental care can be costly and not all seniors can afford it. The Region of Peel Seniors Dental Program was created to help seniors who have no dental

insurance and cannot afford dental care. The program provides basic dental services like cleanings, fillings and dentures to low-income seniors who qualify. Phone Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to find out if you are eligible for the dental services, and to put your name on a three-four month waiting list.

Housing insecurity and homelessness continue to impact people's health in Peel. Having a safe and affordable home is the foundation for good health. Our challenge in Peel is a lack of supply – our waitlists are long. I am committed, in this next municipal term, to shorten the wait times and work to build more supply. The Federal government has shown leadership on this issue and I will work to access the funds we need to construct new housing and repair our existing housing stock.

Poverty isn't caused by a single factor. One of the things that make it hard for me to sleep at night is our ongoing requirement for food banks. I hope for a time when supports such as food banks and out-of-the-cold programs are no longer needed.

Until then, I will work to build a stronger foundation from which people can focus on meeting other basic needs and gaining the resources they need to move out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency.

Linda Jeffrey is seeking re-election as Mayor of Brampton. She was a councillor from 1991-2003, then became a Liberal MPP for 10 years, was a Minister in various portfolios until 2014 when she left Queen's Park for the Mayor's office in Brampton City Hall. info@lindaajeffrey.ca 289 201-0609

NEED FOOD?

غذا درکار ہے؟
 ਭੋਜਨ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ؟
 需要食物吗？
 Cần thực phẩm?
 هل تحتاج إلى الطعام؟
 ¿Necesita comida?



Don't Go Hungry

If you don't have enough money for food and live in Mississauga, you can go to a neighbourhood food bank.

It doesn't matter about your age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or immigration status. You will receive enough healthy food to feed your family for 7-10 days each month. There is no cost to visit a food bank.

Find your food bank at
www.themississaugafoodbank.org
 or phone 905.270.5589.



A past and future world with six strong voices

ToughTomes

BY LAURA BILYEA, Librarian
Central Library, Mississauga

It's time to listen. Here are six Indigenous authors telling their own stories in their own words. As human beings, we need to hear what they have to say.

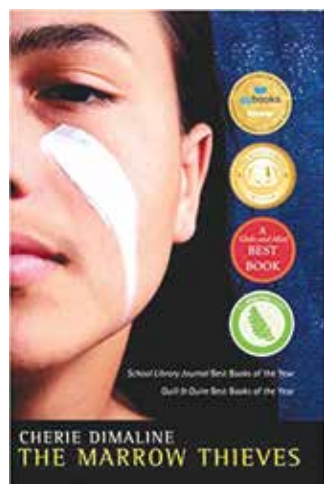
As Canadians, we are all treaty people.

It's past time, but hopefully these critically acclaimed and award-winning books prove it is not too late.

The Marrow Thieves

Dimaline, Cherie
Y DIMAL (2018)

Governor General's Literary Award 2018



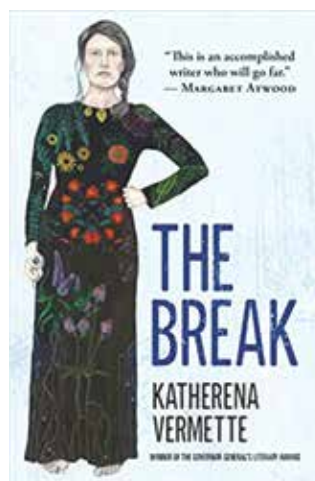
In a future world ravaged by global warming, the only people still able to dream are North America's indigenous population -- and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world. But getting the marrow -- and dreams -- means death for the unwilling donors. Driven to flight, a 15-year-old and his companions struggle for survival, attempt to reunite with loved ones, and take refuge from the "recruiters" who seek them out to bring them to the marrow-stealing 'factories.'"

The Break

Vermette, Katherena
F VERME (2016)

CBC Canada Reads Nominee 2017

In a series of shifting narratives, people who are connected, both directly and indirectly, with the victim — police, family, and friends — tell their personal stories leading up to that fateful night. Lou, a social worker, grapples with the departure of her live-in boyfriend. Cheryl, an artist, mourns the premature death of her sister Rain. Paulina, a single mother, struggles to



trust her new partner. Phoenix, a homeless teenager, is released from a youth detention centre. Officer Scott, a Métis policeman, feels caught between two worlds as he patrols the city. Through their various perspectives a larger, more comprehensive story about lives of the residents in Winnipeg's North End is exposed.

Indian Horse

Wagamese, Richard
F WAGAM (2012)

Movie released in April 2018, CBC Canada
Reads Nominee 2013

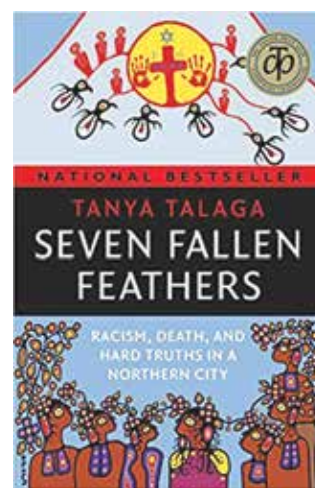


With compassion and insight, author Richard Wagamese traces through his fictional characters the decline of a culture. For Saul Indian Horse, taken forcibly from the land and his family when he's sent to residential school, salvation comes for a while through his incredible gifts as a hockey player. But in the harsh realities

of 1960s Canada, he battles racism and the spirit-de-stroying effects of cultural alienation and displacement.

Seven Fallen Feathers: racism, death, and hard truths in a northern city

Talaga, Tanya
305. 89707 TAL (2017)



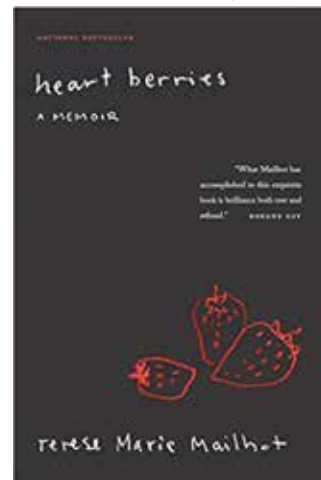
RBC Taylor Prize for
Literary Nonfiction
2018

Over the span of ten years, seven high school students died in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The seven were hundreds of miles from their families, forced to leave their reserve because no high school was there for them to attend. Award-winning journalist Tanya Talaga

dives into the history of this northern city that has come to manifest, and struggle with, human rights violations past and present against aboriginal communities.

Heart Berries: a memoir

Mailhot, Terese Marie
971. 137 MAILH (2018)



Terese Mailhot's memoir chronicles her struggle to balance the beauty of her Native heritage with the often desperate and chaotic reality of life on the Seabird Island Indian Reservation in British Columbia. Having survived a profoundly dysfunctional upbringing only to find herself facing a dual diagnosis of Post-Traumatic

Stress Disorder and Bipolar II, Terese Mailhot is given a notebook and begins to write her way out of trauma. The triumphant result is Heart Berries. As she writes, Mailhot discovers her own true voice, seizes control of her story and, in so doing, re-establishes her connection to her family, to her people and to her place in the world.

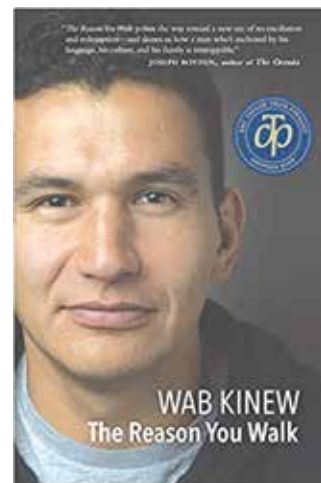
As Canadians, we are all treaty people.

The Reason You Walk

Kinew, Wab

971. 2743 KINEW (2015)

RBC Taylor Prize Nominee 2016



As Kinew revisits his own childhood in Winnipeg and on a reserve in Northern Ontario, he learns more about his father's traumatic childhood at residential school. Invoking hope, healing and forgiveness, The Reason You Walk is a poignant story of a towering but damaged father and his son as they embark on a journey to repair their family bond. By turns lighthearted and solemn, Kinew gives us an inspiring vision for family and cross-cultural reconciliation, and a wider conversation about the future of aboriginal peoples.

ney to repair their family bond. By turns lighthearted and solemn, Kinew gives us an inspiring vision for family and cross-cultural reconciliation, and a wider conversation about the future of aboriginal peoples.

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Labour Community Services of Peel

When one person in our community is left behind, none of us can truly move forward



BY BONNIE CROMBIE

Everyone should be able to live in Mississauga, and everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed.

In order to achieve this, municipalities need funding and support from the provincial and federal levels of government.

Mississauga is a great city. We are home to people from every corner of the globe and all points in between. We are a place that welcomes people no matter your background, race, colour, creed, sexual orientation or socio-demographic standing.

We are a place people choose to be, and on almost every measure **we are a City in demand**. But not everyone is joining in the prosperity, and not everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Our success means that increasingly, we are becoming **a City that people cannot afford**; where too many are left behind or struggling to make ends meet.

In a City as affluent as Mississauga,

we can and we must do better to make our city an affordable place for people from all socio-economic backgrounds.

In May, I had the honour of speaking to United Way agencies and political party leaders, to mark the beginning of the “Ontario for All” campaign.

I spoke about Mississauga’s missing middle class, the growing income polarization in our city, **the rise of precarious employment, and the increasing cost of housing and services** -- and the toll this is taking on our local economy and our people.

Most importantly, I committed to working with our United Way agencies and the community to make investments and take action to ensure nobody is left behind and that everyone has an opportunity to prosper.

Mississauga has always enjoyed the reputation of an affluent city, but the data paints a slightly different picture.

We have long held the image of the suburban dream; but today we see that low to very low-income neighbourhoods now make up 52% of our city compared to just over 20% in 2000. This is a 32% increase in just under two decades and is concerning on many levels.

Food bank use is at record highs, especially among children; our public housing waitlists continue to grow; vacancy in the City for the middle class stands at 0.9%, and more people are finding it more difficult to get ahead. It’s a tale of two cities.

Over the past four years as Mayor, I have made these issues a priority.

In early 2015, I launched the

Mayor’s Poverty and Homelessness Advisory Board who informed me of the overwhelming need for more public and middle-income housing.

From the advisory board, we also launched the Mayor’s City-Wide Food Drive, which over the past three years has raised over \$430,000 and \$630,000 for the Mississauga Food Bank. Despite the overwhelming generosity of Mississauga residents, it is still not enough. As much as I enjoy running the food drive, **our goal must be to put food banks out of business**.

Through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, I have joined other Big City Mayors in advocating for a national housing strategy. This strategy was announced earlier this year and will commit more than \$40 billion to public housing over the next 10 years, including in the Region of Peel.

Our wait list has more than 13,000 people who will get housing after 6.5 years.

We can and we must do more to address public housing, and this includes investments from both the federal and provincial governments.

At the same time, Mississauga is a municipal leader, developing the first-ever middle-income affordable housing strategy, “Making Room for the Middle.”

The goal is to make affordable at least 35% of all new developments.

I will continue to work to close the missing middle housing gap in our city and ensure we remain an affordable place to live for everyone.

Cities like Mississauga are on the front lines. We see the effects of precarious employment, income polarization, mental health and addictions, hunger, and rising debt levels. To tackle these issues requires all three levels of government working together -- we need provincial and federal partners to provide funding and take meaningful action.

These are not partisan issues, but human issues, the results of which impact everyone. A shrinking middle class, decreasing opportunity, combined with increased income polarization is **a recipe for disaster socially and economically**. Whether you’re left, right or in the centre, these are issues that need to be addressed.

If re-elected, I will renew my efforts to address these issues and ensure Mississauga remains affordable and a place where everyone has the opportunity to live a good life and to prosper.

We cannot have an “Ontario for All” without a “Mississauga for All.” When one person in our community is left behind, none of us can truly move forward.

Bonnie Crombie is seeking re-election as Mayor of Mississauga, an office she has held since 2014. Before that she was councillor for Ward 5 (Malton), and before that Liberal MP for Mississauga-Streetsville. She has an MBA from Schulich School of Business, has been a consultant for organizations including the Insurance Board of Canada, McDonald's, and Disney.
info@bonniecrombie.ca
647 938-0855

WELLFORT'S 2018 RESOLUTIONS

Calling All Municipal Election Candidates to
Support Our Resolutions!

1. Advocacy for Universal Pharmacare
2. Advocacy for Equitable Access to Dental care
3. Enhancing Client Driven Care
4. Advocacy for Food Security

5. Advocacy for Income Security
6. Commitment to Anti-Oppression
7. Commitment to Quality Improvement
8. Strengthening Community Action
9. Commitment to Harm Reduction



@BramaleaCHC
@FourCornersHC

More info: www.WellFort.ca



Hungry for help

Do you know where your next meal is coming from?
Yes?

Lucky you.

Jeff Bowman told several hundred volunteers that 78,000 people in Brampton live in “food insecurity” – they are not sure there’s a meal coming their way any time soon.

A third of these hungry people are children and youth.

“Food insecurity does not discriminate on age, race, religion, gender. It can affect anyone at any time,” Bowman said.

The cause?

Low income.

The folk he spoke to are volunteers at Knights Table, a soup kitchen in Brampton that serves three meals a day every day to people in need. It runs a food bank, after school programs, provides confidence-building activities for youth, social times for seniors, supports addicts in recovery, helps the jobless look for paid work. And much more.

Bowman said: “It takes special individuals to recognize that any assistance, no matter how small, makes a difference in someone’s life. Volunteers help raise awareness and funds, prep and clean up after meals; they are caring, compassionate, and see those in need through a lens that doesn’t judge.”

He thanked individuals, businesses, restaurateurs, who provide food and money and other services, enabling



Supporters of the Fight for \$15 and Fairness, which wants better conditions for workers everywhere. \$15 is to be a minimum wage.

charities like Knights Table to continue serving meals.

“Your donations feed the kids, who need the energy to get through school and get good grades so they can move forward to college and university. You are feeding adults who for some unfortunate reason can’t afford to eat three meals a day, and perhaps they are

without shelter as well.”

Volunteering can be satisfying, Bowman noted. “Some people are content to sit around and complain, that we shouldn’t give them that, or help them in any way. But others say we should help, and they do something about it. It is action, it is deliberate, it is meaningful, and it is impactful on our

community.”

He got a standing ovation. And so did the volunteers.

*Jeff Bowman is seeking re-election as city councillor for Brampton Wards 3 & 4.
info@reelectbowman.com
(905) 460-3754*



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A Caledon Perspective



BY ALLAN THOMPSON

People see poverty as a big city/urban issue—and rightly so because that does accurately portray the majority of residents living below the poverty line in Peel.

But in rural parts of Caledon the picture is different. Poverty affects a much smaller number of people and yet, for me as Mayor, it is still very concerning.

Caledon is perceived as an affluent

municipality. The average price of a home here is about \$800,000. However that is not the whole picture. Caledon is a large area—56 per cent of the land mass of Peel and a blend of small urban, rural and agricultural communities.

Our challenges include:

- Many senior and low-income residents live in rural isolation with limited access to services such as transit, social networks and community supportive care services;
- Youth and young adults struggle with accessing jobs and community programs and services due to lack of transit;
- Young families are forced to move outside the communities they grew up in because of the lack of affordable housing and well-paying jobs;
- Lack of affordable reliable high speed internet is stifling innovation and job creation.

These conditions are due in part to the underfunding of municipal services.

Municipalities receive just nine cents of every tax dollar to deliver what I see as essential services and programs that contribute to healthy, livable communities.

I'm proud to say that we have taken innovative and creative steps to finding solutions to these issues such as:

- Partnering with not-for-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity and our development community to allocate and build affordable housing units here in Caledon;
- Working with the province to allow us planning flexibility to accommodate small bungalows and mixed housing so our seniors can downsize and stay in their communities;
- Attracting large employers like Amazon to create competitive jobs, strengthen our local economy and shift our tax base to lessen the burden on our residential taxpayers;
- Investing with the South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) group to gain access to millions of dollars in federal and

provincial funding for fibre infrastructure, to bring high-speed Internet to every corner of Caledon

- Promoting and supporting community organizations like Caledon Community Services and Caledon Meals on Wheels who deliver vital community services to our rural areas.

Caledon is an incredibly beautiful town with breathtaking landscapes, and caring, generous residents and businesses. I imagine a future Caledon that is connected, sustainable, inclusive and affordable.

info@allanforcaledon.ca

Elected in 2014, Allan Thompson is seeking a second term as Mayor of the Town of Caledon. Prior to the mayoralty, he was a councillor for three terms. He is on the board of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and with SWIFT Network, a collaborative effort funding the construction of #broadbandforeveryone.

Your candidates on POVERTY

Mansoor Ameersulthan

Candidate for Mayor of Brampton

Email: mansoorameersulthan@gmail.com

Phone: 647 648-2786



MAKING OUR CITY A BETTER PLACE

– Poverty is a major issue, which needs more attention and support. Many children and adults

suffer from poverty and hunger. Poverty affects 17 percent of people in Peel. We all have the responsibility to stop poverty by working together to bring change. It is disheartening to see people near traffic lights asking for money, which shows how much they struggle every

day. We can combat poverty by bringing more jobs, funding and awareness among people, to donate and reduce food wastage. Poverty is a huge problem and it is important to work together to bring change, to control poverty and make our city a better place.

Karla Bailey

Running for Brampton councillor, Ward 7&8

416-414-4981

karladdbailey@gmail.com



WHERE EVERY CHILD CAN THRIVE...

– With over 15 years experience working with children, adolescents and families,

I have witnessed first hand the impact of poverty. I want to live in a city where every child has the ability to thrive and no child ever goes to bed hungry. As an educator and children's advocate, I understand that poverty is a key determinant of health and well-being and directly contributes to success in adulthood. As your city councillor, I will work to make sure that more schools offer a free breakfast and/or snack program. I will also support creation of more affordable housing.

Dmytro Basmat

Peel District School Board Trustee - Caledon

Dmytrobasmat@gmail.com • 416-735-7842



ACCESS TO FOOD STIRS EDUCATION

– People typically think that Caledon residents are well off. For some in wealthier villages

this may be true, but the facts are clear that far too many people in Caledon still experience poverty. This includes the many families in Caledon that rely on food banks to get by. This is why the promotion of food programs is so important in our schools. The addition of providing elementary school-aged children with healthy meals a few times a week is vital, along with the support of breakfast programs for all

Peel District School Board schools. In the end, access to food stirs education, and education pulls children out of poverty.

Josephine Bau

Candidate for Councillor, Ward 4

Mississauga

racer403@hotmail.com

905-820-4455 or 416-567-8097



SUPPORTING YOUTH

– I stand up for marginalized communities. My vision for Mississauga is a safe and vibrant city where citizens enjoy

EQUAL opportunities for growth and prosperity. Children are our hope for tomorrow. We need to move them out of poverty and empower them to become educated and responsible citizens. We should help grass roots groups grow. It was disheartening to see a viable after-school program for a marginalized youth group suspended amid government priorities. We should support young people in higher education and skills development.

We embrace diversity. If a sectoral program is what it takes to help our kids succeed, we should support it!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Light Rail Transit hits a full-stop

The Ontario government thinks a light rail transit system linking Brampton and Mississauga to each other and to other transit routes is a good idea. So much so that it is prepared to provide \$1.4 billion to make it happen.

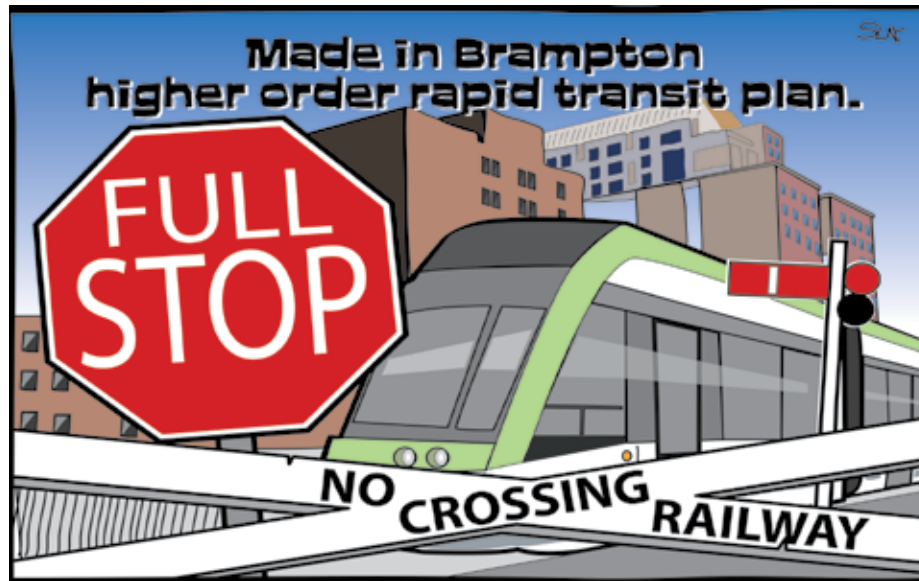
Mississauga likes the plan and the money, and is into the preliminaries of acquiring property in the Hurontario area.

Mississauga declares: "The project will bring 20 kilometres of fast, reliable, rapid transit to the cities of Mississauga and Brampton along the Hurontario corridor. The LRT line will have 22 stops with connections to the Milton and Lakeshore West GO Transit lines, Mississauga MiWay, Brampton Züm, and the Mississauga Transitway along Highway 403."

Mississauga is already designing the stops, streetscape, and more for the 20-kilometre ride from Port Credit GO to the Gateway Terminal at Steeles Avenue in Brampton.

Brampton Council talked about extending the LRT north from Steeles on Hurontario into downtown Brampton. And there the project stops, according to Brampton councillor Martin Medeiros.

Here's his take on the idea and the money.



Moving Brampton forward

BY MARTIN MEDEIROS

As Regional Councillor for Brampton wards 3&4 for the last four years, my top priority is representing my residents and enabling change at City Hall.

I want to move Brampton forward -- a reason I fought for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension through the downtown core.

As chair of Human Services at the Region of Peel, I advocated for an affordable transit initiative, which will not only make commuting easier for our residents, but cost-effective.

That is why in 2015 I urged bringing the LRT line down Hurontario/Main Street in Brampton. But council split six votes to five on the issue, and the motion failed -- despite \$386m of

funding for Brampton being available from the province.

A vote in favour of the proposed extension was a vote for the people of Brampton and a vote in the right direction and here is why I believe that:

Provincial funding

The funding was a one-time offer from the province. It would have caused no tax increase for Brampton residents. But council voted against it and even the studies required for other routes will cost us.

Better accessibility

Brampton seeks innovation and economic growth, so it is important that the spaces and places where we live are retained and are well maintained. Running the LRT through downtown Brampton won't destroy it. Buildings

and houses lining Main Street are heritage buildings, which will be protected. In fact, the downtown core would be more accessible and better connected to the community.

Increase in the city's population

As a member of the Blue-Ribbon Panel, it was an honour to bring Brampton its first university and I am pleased to announce Brampton will work with Ryerson University and Sheridan College to make this a reality. This means an influx of students from all over Canada and internationally. The university will require staff at all levels. Brampton has already attracted new business and investments, while ensuring that local businesses continue to thrive. Now we need a transit system that aligns with the city's vision.

Brampton will be more accessible than ever through improvements in our transit system.

I am committed to exploring further ideas to bring the LRT to Brampton, easing congestion on our roads and connecting our city to Mississauga and the GTA.

I am committed to fighting for the funding again, should the opportunity arise, and working with government and local stakeholders to reach a democratic decision that benefits the residents of Brampton.

*Martin Medeiros seeks re-election as Regional councillor
Brampton Wards 3&4
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647 643-4330*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Jeff Bowman

seeks re-election as councillor
Brampton Wards 3&4

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As Brampton moves towards a million people by 2040, we need to understand not only infrastructure, transit, sustainable living spaces but also social services,

affordable housing, looking after the most vulnerable and the effects of poverty. I am involved with many valuable community support groups such as Knight's Table, Regeneration, Bridge Prison Ministry, Brampton Senior's Council and The Gift of

Your candidates on POVERTY

Giving Back Food Drive. I am fortunate to have a roof over my head and food in the cupboards, when hundreds in our community do not, and children leave home hungry every morning, and many seniors live at or below the poverty line. Council needs to ensure that we receive our fair share of funding from the province.

Brad Butt

Candidate for council
Mississauga, Ward 1

647-803-6414 • info@bradbutt.ca



Poverty is a serious and growing issue in Peel. Governments at all levels must take this issue to heart and find new and better ways to address it. For more than three

decades I have served many organizations working to alleviate poverty in Peel: on the board of the Mississauga Food Bank; worked with United Way of Peel; co-chair of the All Party Anti-Poverty Caucus in the House of Commons; currently on the Pathways Community Developments Non-Profit Housing Board. As councillor in Ward 1, I will continue to advocate for ways to eliminate poverty. That must be our goal.

Stan Cameron

Candidate for trustee for Caledon
Peel District School Board
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In Caledon, anti-poverty requires affordable housing and employment. When a municipality creates jobs and places to live to help fight poverty,

caring communities must help individuals and families. With two very large corporations setting up operations in Bolton, Amazon and Canadian

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OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit

as of September / October 30, 2018

Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) payments starting at the end of September, 2018.

YOU CAN'T LIVE ON THIS

Family Type	Current				New as of Sept / Oct 2018			
OW	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
Single	\$337	\$384	\$0	\$721	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733
Single Parent - 1 child	\$354	\$632	\$114	\$1,100	\$360	\$642	\$117	\$1,119
Single Parent - 2 children	\$354	\$686	\$229	\$1,269	\$360	\$697	\$234	\$1,291
Couple	\$486	\$632	\$0	\$1,118	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136
Couple - 1 child	\$486	\$686	\$114	\$1,286	\$494	\$697	\$117	\$1,308
Couple - 2 children	\$486	\$744	\$229	\$1,459	\$494	\$756	\$234	\$1,484
ODSP								
Single	\$662	\$489	\$0	\$1,151	\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169
Single Parent - 1 child	\$805	\$769	\$114	\$1,688	\$815	\$781	\$117	\$1,713
Single Parent - 2 children	\$805	\$833	\$230	\$1,868	\$815	\$846	\$234	\$1,895
Couple	\$954	\$769	\$0	\$1,723	\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750
Couple - 1 child	\$954	\$833	\$114	\$1,901	\$969	\$846	\$117	\$1,932
Couple - 2 children	\$954	\$904	\$230	\$2,088	\$969	\$918	\$234	\$2,121

NOTES:

- The amounts shown in the chart above are maximums and may not apply in every situation. For example, people who pay less for their housing than the maximum shelter amount will only receive the amount they pay. **LIVE IN THE WOODS OR ON THE STREETS? YOU LOSE YOUR SHELTER ALLOWANCE.**
- The actual amount of Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) that a family gets may be lower than the maximum. The amount will depend on the net income of the family. Note that families with children **MUST FILE INCOME TAX RETURNS** in order to receive the OCB.

ADAPTED FROM MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE



Waving banners, gesticulating, laughing, and with thumbs up, supporters of poverty activist group ACORN Canada demonstrate at Mississauga's City Hall. The purpose: draw attention of voters and vote-seekers to the shortage of affordable housing in Mississauga. Local ACORN leader Virginia Vaithilingam says: "With 46% of tenants in the city paying more than 30% of their incomes on rent, council candidates must understand that affordable housing is the most pressing issue facing the city." (Photo provided)



BY CAROLYN PARRISH

Affordable housing is a basic human right. In a relatively wealthy city like Mississauga, housing for all is finally becoming a priority. 13% of our residents live in poverty. All pay more than 30% of their incomes on shelter - those

Housing is a human right

who in fact have a place to live.

As of December 31 last year, 13,597 households were on Peel's waiting list, an increase of 4.9 per cent since December 2016.

Paying a huge chunk of family income on housing leaves little for food, clothing, transportation and health care - nothing for recreation. Sadly, food banks fill in the need but do not solve the problem.

When Creditvale Mills was built in Mississauga in 2009, as councillor I put together donated City and developer-owned land with federal and provincial grants to produce 125 seniors' and 125 family units for Peel Living.

More recently, I encouraged the City to donate an abandoned fire station property in Malton to Habitat for Humanity for four semis with finished basement

apartments. These are baby steps and will never address the need.

Peel's housing record since 2009:

Total number of affordable rental housing units built or acquired in Peel between 2009 – 2017, and units currently in development:

Mississauga:

- Number of units: 327 (including condos acquired)
- Units in development: 250

Brampton:

- Number of units: 1017 (including condos acquired)

Caledon:

- Number of units: 37
- Number of units in development: 60

Total for Peel: 1691 units

Regional Council has consulted with many housing experts, drawing up 44 recommendations for a long-term solution to this most pressing need. All require a commitment of land and/or money by all three levels of government. Affordable housing is the key to a healthy, independent population. The 2018-2022 council must follow through on this significant file.

*Carolyn Parrish
seeking re-election
Ward 5, Malton
cparrish@rogers.com
905 896 0330*



Chris Fonseca

We MUST have more housing, says Fonseca

With over 50% of neighbourhoods in Peel considered low income, the most urgent financial issues facing Mississauga residents are the high cost of all housing and lack of safe, affordable rental housing. As a councillor, I have supported: City of Mississauga and Peel Region motions/resolutions favouring a National Housing Strategy which is now in place; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) promotion of partnerships with government and business addressing the gap in rental housing; ensuring Our Place Peel youth shelter in Ward 3 gets additional beds and services; assuring the residents of Twin Pines, many of them seniors, that their community will always have safe, affordable housing.

Ward 3 is home to 27% of all rental housing in Mississauga. I will continue to advocate for rental housing incentives and to preserve rental housing, reinvesting and creating new housing, and advocating for a fair share of funds for Mississauga and Peel to help put in place better supports and services to keep people in their homes. As well, we must help our shelters for homeless families and individuals provide programs and services to move them back into safe and affordable homes.

Chris Fonseca seeks re-election as councillor Mississauga, Ward 3
info@electfonseca.ca
 647-313-4541

Ending the violence

BY ANITA STELLINGA

Civic engagement is such a powerful tool for good, and one that can be harnessed 365 days a year. At the very least, the municipal election every four years affords each of us the opportunity to not just participate by casting a vote, but also to ensure that the issues we consider vital are placed front and centre on the collective agenda.

Like so many local residents, I'm alarmed by the increase in youth violence in our community. And while tragic incidents have been making the headlines across the GTA — and right here in Peel — this summer, I know that this issue isn't about to go away with the turn of the season.

As someone with years of experience in community development, I know that the recent escalation in friction and expressions of hate, in physical and gun violence in neighbourhoods from Brampton to Mississauga, is connected to rising poverty and inequality. And as our recent research, The Opportunity Equation, demonstrates, that trend is having a real impact. Today, the majority of Peel neighbourhoods are low-income; and middle-income neighbourhoods are disappearing.

As a long-time partner in the wellbeing and future of communities in Peel, Toronto and York Region, United Way Greater Toronto is committed to working with others to find real and lasting solutions to this challenge.

We bring a strong track record — in research on poverty, inequality and its consequences, and in our work to strengthen neighbourhoods and resident leadership, to mobilize policy and investment, to develop youth dedicated spaces and pioneer youth leadership initiatives. All these efforts help set youth up for success, so that they are not vulnerable to violence. This is the kind of work we are continuing to build on, because we know that addressing the issue and altering this trend requires nothing less than sustained investment and community collaboration.

What does that look like?

Like solutions designed in partnership with the people and communities that are hardest hit. Community supports where



need is greatest. Services and programs that build young people's confidence, encourage school completion and help parents support their families.

Youth who face multiple barriers connected to good jobs through employment pathway programs, mentoring and access to opportunities.

And comprehensive approaches to systemic change — working with partners from across the spectrum and across the GTA, sharing lessons learned and joining forces on the ground.

We believe that these investments and interventions have the potential to address the root causes of youth poverty and violence. By ensuring that young people have the supports they need so that they don't fall into criminal activity — strong neighbourhoods where they feel safe and have a deep sense of belonging; access to education, training and jobs; real futures — we can circumvent that sense of hopelessness and disconnection and stop the cycle of violence and trauma.

That is what United Way Greater Toronto is doing with the help of so many of our partners: community agencies, government, academic institutions, business and employers, volunteers and donors.

Many residents of Peel are part of that work. And many more can play a role in contributing solutions to the problem of youth violence. As voters. As volunteers. And as people who care about

each other and find hope in our future.

It starts with engagement. Becoming knowledgeable about this and other significant issues in our community. Paying attention to local news. Reading community papers like Tough Times. Reading this opinion piece and the others that make up the Road Map for the Municipal Election. They are your road map to making a difference. To having an impact. And continuing to strengthen our communities.

Because when you're informed, you can take that on the road. Attend town halls. Ask candidates tough questions. Challenge incumbents to explain what policies they've supported and why. Share your own suggestions. Even better: find like-minded others to create critical mass and push that suggestion up the chain to see if any political hopefuls will champion it as part of their platform. If there's one thing we know from our work at United Way, it's by joining together that we can make real change happen.

And ultimately you have the opportunity to put your time and your vote behind the person whose hopes and vision for our community most reflects your own.

And thank goodness for that.

Mississauga resident Anita Stellinga is Regional Executive, GTA Integration, United Way of Greater Toronto

Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy and Me

BY DORIS COOPER

Almost two years ago, I took part in a pilot project with Mi-Way – discussions – about affordable transit. I was also participating in an advisory group regarding Ontario Disability Support Program.

That led to working with Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy, finding out that the waitlist for affordable housing is 5.3 years, that 33% of Peel residents spend more than 30% of their income on rent, 17,000 Peel residents receive social assistance, a monthly transit pass is 6.5% of their monthly income, that youth employment in Peel rose to 18.9% and children made up 51% of the visits to Mississauga food banks. These figures were my wake-up call to see what I could do to reduce these numbers! These figures are almost



two years old if not more!

The Poverty Reduction group worked on each part of the Strategy and made it fit into society today and hopefully into the future.

Our Bold Statement defines our aims:

“Access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing; access to affordable and accessible transportation; access to sufficient, affordable, and nutritious food; and access to health care and education are basic human rights. We acknowledge that systemic barriers and discrimination can cause marginalized, racialized, immigrant and newcomer communities to be disproportionately affected by poverty. We must work together as a community if poverty is to be eliminated in Peel.”

This is my basic reason for continuing to work with the Peel Reduction Strategy. We all need to do our part!

On May 10, 2018, Region of Peel councillors unanimously approved the update to the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy. Find out more at povertyinpeel.ca

Your candidates on POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Tire, the largest urban centre within Caledon becomes an area in need of a larger work force. Caledon's public schools continue to support their community with donations of clothes and food. These donations are made to The Exchange food program for all. Teaching children that it's their responsibility to help continues to be a wonderful lesson.

Everton D. Campbell

Candidate for Regional councillor
Brampton Ward 2&6
evertoncampbell@voteeverton.ca
647 447-9827



According to the late Robert Nesta Marley, “A hungry man is an angry man”. Although the Premier has made a pledge to reduce gas prices, they still remain

high, and this is in addition to unaffordable housing, and outrageous insurance premiums. It is no wonder that homelessness is increasing within our municipality. It appears that everything is raising but the dead! When I was growing up, we used to see homeless people primarily in Toronto. Now it is common to see small tent communities, and panhandlers at almost every exit on both the 403 and 410 highways..

We should refrain from neglecting the poor

and impoverished, because stats have taught us poverty and crime go hand in hand. More police has never been the solution to crime, jobs and opportunities are.

Robert Crocker

seeking re-election as
Peel District School Board Trustee –
Mississauga Wards 6&11
rcrocker@sympatico.ca • 416-452-8613



As a volunteer with Eden Food for Change, I am aware of the realities of hunger in Mississauga. I am proud of our schools where students

are learning more about social justice. I am hopeful that the new generation of voters and politicians will be more caring and that this will be reflected in legislation. In the meantime, I am impressed with the ongoing efforts of students, with the support and direction of teachers and school administrators, to engage in fundraising, and in collecting food, clothing and other necessities for the needy.

Mangaljit Dabb

Running for councillor
Brampton, Wards 9&1,
info@mangaljitdabb.com • 289 801-4910



NO VOTE MEANS NO VOICE – The entire community suffers from poverty, not just those who are short of money. We can attack

poverty by giving access to opportunities and programs leading to affordable housing, livable

wages, and encouraging innovation and education. These solutions can only come into effect if those who are challenged by poverty exercise their right to vote. Voting is a way of changing our current condition and holding elected officials accountable. But politicians represent only those who voted for them.

Who doesn't vote? As I door knock in wards 9 and 10 in Brampton, cash-poor people tell me that they don't believe politicians so they don't vote. But no vote means no voice!



William Davies

Candidate for trustee,
Wards 2&6, Brampton
Peel Public School
Board
[davistrusteeaward-](mailto:davistrusteeaward-2and6@gmail.com)

2and6@gmail.com

AFFORDABLE LUNCH – I won't call you at home, I won't knock on your door because I don't like it when it happens to me. My name is William Davies, I am running to become trustee on Peel District School Board, for Brampton Wards 2 and 6. I believe my strong communication skills will be an asset for the ward. I would like to look into an affordable lunch program for our schools. If Pizza Days benefit the school fundraising program, why can't a cost-effective lunch program be provided? Either parents don't have the time, or they don't have the money. Let's provide a low cost alternative.

Al De Ascentiis

Candidate for city councillor
Mississauga Ward 6
Email: VoteForAl@mississaugaward6.ca
289-997-1576



A SOCIAL CONTRACT – Poverty is a reality. It need not be. We are one of the most prosperous and abundant countries. It pains me to read that

one in five children live in poverty. And in Peel, the gap between poor and rich has reached record highs. In Ward 6 we need more affordable housing, I hear my residents' stories firsthand how they cannot make ends meet. I have visited our local foodbank who tell me they are in desperate need of more donations. As your new Ward 6 councillor I will address these needs. The social contract I enter with the voters gives me that accountability!

Michael Farquharson

Candidate for Brampton wards 9&10,
Votemichael2018@gmail.com
647-220-0442



FIGHTING POVERTY – A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT – I am deeply concerned about the level of

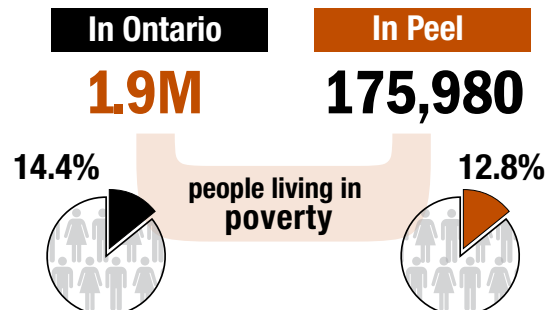
poverty that is plaguing Peel. According to StatsCan, in 2016 unemployment reached 19.7% in Peel. This fact requires immediate action to create more jobs for our citizens' well-being and self-confidence. If elected, I commit to:

Creating more than 30,000 jobs within my first term of office by bringing different stakeholders to the table, to determine sustainable solutions for this heart-wrenching and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Poverty in Peel

INCOME



In Peel

18% of children 0-17 live in poverty



16% of racialized communities (visible minority) live in poverty

52%

of Peel NEIGHBOURHOODS are now considered low income

compared to **2%** in 1982

→ Gap between the rich and the poor has grown in Peel

EMPLOYMENT

Monthly **social assistance entitlement** for a single individual is
\$721

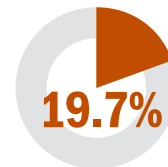
Average monthly **Ontario Works (OW)** households
18,678

26,750 persons receive **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** benefit



Unemployment rate in Peel is
8.2%
...higher than Ontario's
7.4%

Youth unemployment rate in Peel is
19.7%



48% of those **employed in Peel** work part of the year or **part time**



HOUSING

13.9% tenant households live in **subsidized housing**



The wait for a housing subsidy in Peel may be several years.

45% of renters spend **over 30%** of their income on **shelter cost**

There are **13,597** households on the **housing waitlist**

CHILDCARE



\$26,760 average annual **child care cost in Peel** for a toddler and preschool child

TRANSPORTATION



Adults spend **5.9%** of minimum wage monthly salary on **bus pass**

WELLBEING

Only **30.5%** **Low Income** individuals in Peel have **dental insurance**.



FOOD

The cost to feed a family of four per week in Peel

\$197 in 2016



26% INCREASE from 2009

14% of Peel's households experience marginal, moderate or severe food insecurity

Sources:

- City of Brampton, 2018
- Ministry of Community and Social Services, 2017
- Ontario Child Care Management System (OCCMS), October 2017
- Peel Access to Housing (PATH), 2017
- Peel Food Charter, 2017

- Peel Public Health. Oral Health in Peel: Key Findings about Risk Factors and Oral Health Outcomes, 2017
- Region of Peel, Human Services, 2017
- Social Assistance Management System (SAMS), March 2017
- Statistics Canada, Census of Canada 2016
- The Opportunity Equation in the Greater Toronto Area: An Update on Neighbourhood Income Inequality and Polarization, 2017

Your candidates on POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

demoralizing condition that our citizens face;

Championing more affordable housing for lower income earners. With social assistance for a single person at about \$730 a month paying for rent, food, clothing, transportation etc., it is time to make more lands available for affordable housing.

Theresa Guidolin

PDSB Trustee Candidate for trustee
Peel District School Board
Wards 9&10, Brampton
Email - thereseguidolin@gmail.com



I live in a community that seems idyllic, surrounded by beautiful parks and spacious homes. So imagine my surprise when I saw one of my Ontario Works

youth get off the bus and walk to his home. I realized that maybe Wards 9 and 10 house many young people living in poverty. Many homes are rented. My biggest concerns are those under 29 who are "couch-surfing" or "homeless." Communities like mine hide poverty well.

A problem is lack of work. The government should support employment initiatives for young people so that they gain experience for more meaningful employment in future.

Ryan Gurcharn

Candidate for trustee
Peel District School Board
Ward 5 Malton
416 453-3599 • trusteeryan@gmail.com



I believe addressing poverty is crucial to increasing our students' academic success. As trustee I'll advocate for consistent reliable funding,

enhanced programming, and strengthening community partnerships to alleviate poverty.

Having graduated from Lincoln M. Alexander Secondary School and having been a youth worker for students there, I've seen firsthand how important it is to receive Urban and Priority Funding. As trustee I'd advocate to make this a consistent reality along with reliable funding for school breakfast programs in neighbourhoods at high social risk.

Ward 5 families are feeling the financial squeeze, are asked for more money every

week for things like pizza lunches or other school fundraisers. This money is crucial to funding school trips, but it's not fair for parents who must choose between buying lunches or paying the rent.

As trustee I'd advocate for consistent extra-curricular activities and excursions funding.

We need to make programs like Camp SAIL and Lancaster's Best Start more accessible. Programs like these help parents with affordable, educational, summer opportunities preparing mothers with resources from before birth to school age.

Lastly, we need to continue and to expand community partnerships such as MSEP and Wellfort Community Health Services (WCHS). While MSEP can assist families with food, housing, and employment, WCHS has a strong history of addressing health and mental health issues.

Imtiaz Haider

Seeking election as City councillor
Brampton Ward 1&5
info@b2bglobal.ca • 905 672 2536



When the percentage between rich and poor gets bigger, then society becomes more vulnerable, basic needs get out of reach, you feel helpless, and

imbalance in power distribution creates weakness in society. One weakness is poverty and the last stage of poverty is crime -- you snatch the goods you dream about. That is happening in our city now. The crime rate is high. We must review our social security system. Those seeking social security money must do volunteer work. Free sports activities should be provided for those who can't afford the fees.

Natalie Hart

Running for councillor
Ward 1 Mississauga
Natalie@VoteHart.ca • 905-510-0665



Poverty in Ward 1 is real, and it is inexcusable given how prosperous we are as a city and Region. This is an issue of both quality of life and opportunity in life.

Some of the solutions are simple: we need to explore how we can improve food security, using tools like community and communal gardens to bring fresh produce to residents.

There are also big picture issues to tackle: wait times for affordable housing are too long, and we need to leverage all aspects of the political process to ensure government and private developers are providing as many affordable units and units geared to income as possible.

Imran Hasan

Candidate for Councillor
Mississauga Ward 11 (Streetsville)
reply@imranhasan.ca
416-410-8762



Everyone deserves to earn an honest living, and have a roof over their head. While the prior Ontario government improved income for the working poor,

the issue of cost of living remains, particularly housing and transportation.

In Streetsville, we can create higher density living in heritage-rich neighbourhoods which are more affordable, while preserving the area's spirit and character. On a municipal level, we can help those of modest means by further increasing transit accessibility, and boost the economy by collaborating with businesses, helping create opportunities for additional local employment. This will increase efficiencies without affecting tax levels, and reduce the climate footprint.

Sharon Hobin

Candidate for trustee
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Wards 2 and 8, Mississauga
sharonhobin@rogers.com • 905-569-2682



As a mother it was a challenge to get my kids to eat breakfast. But they always had that opportunity. Many children rely on breakfast programs in

our schools before they start their day. Everyone knows that our schools provide curriculum but we do so much more. We feed children, we provide clothing and social workers and mental health supports. We do this because it is necessary to thrive. Dufferin-Peel has been working with the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy and will continue to do so. Everyone who uses a food bank has a story to which we can all relate. Everyone deserves a living wage, an opportunity for retraining, a place to live and a chance to look after their children. We have to do much more.

Joe Horneck

Running for councillor
Mississauga Ward 6
905 617 0082 • info@joehorneck.ca



I'm running because I think we need a generational change of leadership to address the new issues that modern Mississauga has. My goal is to

ensure we manage the city's tax burden on

residents to keep housing affordable while ensuring we maintain the programs that families and those who are vulnerable need. Mississauga on the surface is a wealthy city with large areas of detached homes but below the surface we see more basement apartments and multiple generations living together as the cost of living rises, and use of food banks increases. I volunteer as treasurer at Armagh House which offers subsidized housing to women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

Sue Lawton

seeking re-election
Trustee, Peel District School Board
Mississauga Wards 3&4
suelawton2010@gmail.com
905-625-8084



As a Peel District School Board trustee, my focus is our children and the damage poverty inflicts on their ability to succeed in school.

When children are hungry, they cannot learn. If they don't learn, they can't grow into healthy, responsible young adults.

We must engage partners in business, government and non-profit sectors with our schools so that when children come to school hungry we can help.

We have a multitude of food programs in our schools, we focus on providing mental and physical health programs, and we promote parent engagement.

As a trustee, it is my job to champion these programs and to initiate others.

Elected or not, everyone must participate in whatever way they can.

The children we educate and support today are the way to end poverty.

Lynne Lazare

running for trustee
Peel District School Board
Wards 7&8, Brampton
lazare2018link2learning.com • 905-453-3675



Ward 7 and 8 is a socio-economic mixture, upper middle class to lower working class. When children go to school hungry, studies show that their

educational success is impacted; their school supplies are sparse, particularly in technology. As technological skills become the driving force for learning, those without computers and the internet at home are at a disadvantage. Also, many schools depend on their reserves for extracurricular activities such as sports. The

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Your candidates on **POVERTY**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

prime source of these reserve funds comes out of money raised by the school community. Those schools where poverty persists will likely suffer in this regard.

Andrew Lee
candidate for mayor of
Mississauga
alee8239@gmail.com
905 270-8239



As a candidate for mayor of Mississauga, I support construction of more affordable housing.

My vision of Mississauga's future:

sustainable communities, each having schools, shopping centre, medical clinic, affordable/ senior housing, and day care centre. My goal: to maintain the quality of life to attract young people and make the community vibrant and prosperous. Public transportation will link these centres to facilities such as hospitals, entertainment, and sports. Mississauga Seniors Council has proposed freezing seniors' property taxes until they sell their properties. I support this proposal. We can help seniors enjoy their life of "aging in the community".

Garner F. Liverpool
running for trustee
Peel District School Board
Wards 7&8, Brampton



PAYING FOR TRIPS AND PIZZA – Some children in Peel schools are disfranchised by Peel District School Board policies. For

instance, trips and pizza must be paid by debit or credit card, or online. Yet some parents don't have the cards or minimum bank balance and are charged a fee per transaction per child.

Every student has a right to equal access, regardless of economic position.

The school principal suggested complaining to the school board. So here I am.

I believe that every child regardless of where they live in Peel should get equal access to a safe, inclusive school environment with supports and staff to ensure their successful transition into higher education and becoming a productive member of society.

Naila Mahmood

Running for trustee
Peel District School Board
Mississauga Wards 3&4
Votenaila@gmail.com • 647-786-4411



VOTING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE – It is

shocking to hear that poverty still exists in an urban centre like Peel. In 2016, 175,980

people experienced poverty in Peel, the majority of them visible minorities. As a minority, I have seen the effects of poverty. Many of us came to Peel to start a life away from poverty, but ended up in the same slump. As a school trustee candidate, I was heart-broken to hear that one in five children in Peel lives in poverty. I want to support them through programs offering equal opportunity. I know that there isn't an overnight solution to poverty. But we can use our right to vote for positive change.

John Marchant

Candidate for trustee
Peel District School Board
Mississauga Wards 1&7
Email: john@votejohnmarchant.ca
Phone: 905-599-JOHN (5646)



REMOVE BARRIERS, FOCUS RESOURCES

– Thanks to Tough Times for keeping poverty at the forefront of the community's

mind. Poverty hits children the hardest, whether through lack of adequate nutrition or reduced opportunities to fully participate in activities. People often overlook the exponential effects that poverty has on children and that failing to address the gaps leads to further inequity in the way our society benefits from our economy and abundant resources. The wealth gap is of growing concern in all developed societies and needs to be given the spotlight it deserves. At a municipal and school level we need to ensure we are removing barriers and focusing resources to give all students an equal start.

Bruce Marshall

For Regional Councillor
Brampton Ward 7&8,
bruce@brucemarshall.ca • 647 225-2000



END NICKEL-AND-DIMING

– The existence of poverty in our society should be our shame. Yet United Way reports 52% of people in Peel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Feeding our future

BY SHELLY HOWE



A quick look at Toronto Real Estate Board's rental inventory of two-bedroom units on September 1, 2018, reveals that the average rental price for a two-bedroom in Mississauga is \$2,500 a month -- \$30,000 a year! Families are spending over 54% of their income on housing alone, and must still pay for utilities, clothing, food.

Housing affordability is a serious issue for families on low income, and our local governments have support in the pipeline. In the meantime, we must ensure that the children of low-income earners are not suffering. With so little disposable income left for groceries, more children are likely to go to school hungry.

According to Breakfast for Learning (BFL), one of the leading Canadian organizations working to ensure children are not hungry at school, in fact one in six children go to school hungry, "In 2015, Breakfast for Learning funded 2,174 programs across Canada, reaching 271,663 children."

BFL's annual report states that the funded programs cumulatively served 44,710,251 meals within the year. Follow up research indicated that "BFL-funded programs reported a 79% improvement in school attendance and an 89% improvement in academic performance within the 2014-2015 school year."

Although not a complete fix, making nutritious breakfasts, snacks, lunches, available to students should be at the forefront of parent-teacher association agendas. According to the 2016 Census "In Mississauga, child poverty is higher than the provincial and national averages. 17% of children aged 0-18 are living in poverty."

This is a concern that we can address at community level as individuals, proprietors, organizations, suppliers and as parents. We have the resources to reach out and the research to prove that the program works!

The future of Mississauga is shaped with the young brains that need fuel today, a project that we can all join at the school and school board level.

Shelly Howe: running for trustee for MonAvenir French Catholic School Board, Mississauga • realestate@shellyhowe.com • 416-884-8286

QUESTIONS QUESTIONS For school trustee candidates

- How will you finance your campaign?
- Will you press for an Ontario-wide standard of good repair and maintenance for schools?
- How do you intend...to mitigate the damage and uncertainty that the next four years of Conservative government will surely bring?
- To what extent do you agree with education workers' right to strike?
- Unions including Peel Elementary Teachers Local, CUPE, OSSTF, OPSEU, Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel
- Questions from people in need
- Will we ever get good food every day?
- I've been on the housing wait list for four years. Time enough.
- When will Disability Support give us enough to live on?
- Why was my friend happy to reach 65 and get her Old Age Pension? Was it because she got just a few more dollars every month?
- Why do councillors let my kids grow up in poverty?

Questions collected by Peel Poverty Action Group

The New War on the Poor

A DEFENCE MANUAL

BY SIMON BLACK

Another Progressive Conservative government in Ontario, another war on the poor.

Anti-poverty activists old enough to remember the days of the Mike Harris government will know just how quickly and deeply the Doug Ford Conservatives will cut social supports for folks living on low-income and will roll back the welfare state in general. Like the Harris Conservatives, the Ford government will criminalize and penalize poverty, increase surveillance and “fraud” crackdowns, rely on myths and stereotypes about the poor to win public support for their agenda, all the while ignoring polite advocacy and moral appeals. And like Harris, Ford will begin by targeting the most vulnerable and those with the least resources to resist: people living with addictions, folks experiencing homelessness, and lone mothers and their children. The new government’s war on the poor has already begun; in only three months the Ford Conservatives have:

- Cut in half the 3% increase in social assistance rates scheduled to come into effect in September. Furthermore, progressive regulatory changes that were scheduled to be implemented this fall will most likely be cancelled.
- Cancelled the three-year basic income pilot program, which started last year.
- Promised to freeze the minimum wage at \$14 an hour and roll back legislation protecting the working poor.

So what are anti-poverty activists and advocates to do? Here’s a short defence manual for the renewed war on the poor:

1. Advocacy will not work.

Organize, organize, organize.

There is no appealing to the “better natures” of the Ford Conservatives. Polite advocacy backed by research reports and appeals to “evidence-based” policymaking are of little use in the fight against an ideologically-driven government that has zero concern for those living in poverty. Organizing in low-income communities and building the grassroots power of the poor is what this moment calls for. Empowering poor people to fight on their own behalf has always been and remains the only way to build an effective anti-poverty movement. This kind of organizing is already underway, whether in the fight for \$15 and Fairness, the Coalition Against Precarious Work in Peel, or in the wave of rent strikes being waged by tenants in Toronto and Hamilton.

2. Learn lessons from the past.

Throughout the Harris years, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty provided a model of how direct-action casework could bring about material improvements in the lives of folks living on low-income, despite an anti-poor provincial government. Showing up en masse at the office of a negligent landlord or in the welfare office, OCAP used disruptive power in the form of noisy protests and occupations to win small victories, whether

a needed repair to an apartment or a discretionary welfare benefit withheld by a stingy caseworker.

3. Electoral politics matter.

While direct-action is the best way to beat back attacks on the poor and limit the damage done by anti-poor policies, strategic organizing focused on electoral politics must be in the plans in the lead up to the next provincial election. A renewed anti-poverty movement must concern itself with raising voter turnout amongst folks living on low-income across the province but should start in the ridings in which Conservatives won by a small margin. Organizing to raise voter turnout in these ridings could have a big impact in the next election and in the meantime put pressure on vulnerable Tories

4. Confront the rich and powerful

where they are, not just their representatives at Queen’s Park. Wealthy corporations, developers, and small business owners bankroll the Ford Conservatives. One way to bring pressure to bear on the government is to target those who hold Conservative purse strings. Business owners, especially retailers who’ve backed Ford to roll back the minimum wage increase, are vulnerable to public naming and shaming and boycotts.

5. Survival programs are spaces to organize.

Food banks, soup kitchens, and the range of non-profit and charitable services that will be essential to keeping poor folks’ basic needs met in a period of harsh an-

ti-poor policies are places to organize.

For a variety of reasons, these service providers eschew activism for advocacy. But that doesn’t mean that folks committed to building an anti-poverty movement shouldn’t engage poor people where they are and use these spaces to organize, educate and build a resistance to the Ford government.

6. Pushing the labour move-

ment to act. For folks living on social assistance, the human face of the Ford government is a unionized welfare caseworker. Public sector unions like CUPE and OPSEU will be on the defensive the next four years and there have been efforts in the past to build solidarity between frontline caseworkers and their “clients”. These efforts need to be renewed and anti-poverty activists must remind OW and ODSP workers and their unions of the common interests they share in beating back anti-poor, anti-public sector union attacks.

If we are going to defeat the Ford government and ensure that families do not have to choose between paying the rent and feeding the kids, we need an anti-poverty movement willing and ready to fight. There’s no guarantee that we’ll win, but even the smallest and most defensive victories bring hope, keep our energy up, and allow us to dream of a more socially just Ontario in which poverty is history.

Simon Black is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Labour Studies at Brock University and a longtime anti-poverty activist.

NORTH PEEL & DUFFERIN

Community Legal Services

- Free legal services for low income residents of Brampton, Caledon and Dufferin County
- Problems with your landlord?
- Is your rent subsidy threatened?
- Was your application for Ontario Disability Support Program benefits denied?
- Problems with Ontario Works?

905-455-0160 Toll Free from Dufferin 1-866-455-0160 npdinfo@lao.on.ca

RE-ELECT

SUE LAWTON

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TRUSTEE WARDS 3 & 4



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SUELAWTON2010@GMAIL.COM

EXCELLENCE & EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Your candidates on POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

live on a “low income.” Among answers: We need to reverse the nickel and diming of municipal services. One Mum tells me that though she and her husband work hard they can’t afford to put their three boys in basketball camp. So the kids sit around all summer ... Crazy! If we want to address youth violence then we need to engage youth. No more “lock-them-up” chants.

Kathy McDonald

**Seeking re-election
Peel District School Board
Brampton Wards 3&4
reelectkathymcdonald@gmail.com
905 796-8163**



Poverty is often camouflaged in Peel Region but I witness its crippling effects daily. Within my ward lie some of the most impoverished areas of

Peel. In February, as a result of my August 2017 “Poverty Motion,” Peel District School Board published a report Poverty Indicators -- troubling statistics which I am trying to mitigate by: addressing the significant nutrition and mental health needs of students; bringing the Hammer Band program to schools in my ward; advocating for equitable distribution of resources, especially human resources, to address poverty related issues; re-establishing schools as Community Hubs, and aligning schools with community agencies.

Martin Medeiros

**seeks re-election as Regional councillor
Brampton Wards 3&4
Vote@martinmedeiros.ca • 647 643-4330**



As Brampton’s population grows, our resources must expand. As Regional Councillor and representative for the Peel Poverty Action

Group, I am committed to ensuring every resident has an equal opportunity to seek the assistance they need without barriers. As chair of Human Services at the Region of Peel I have: Led the initiative to open Brampton’s first youth homeless shelter;

Delivered a 10-year housing strategy so that no resident will have to live without housing; Advocated for the affordable transit initiative, where low-income residents are able to get a subsidized bus pass at a \$1 fare; Supported numerous community organizations such as Regeneration and Knights Table, which are helping to alleviate poverty.

Charles Moffatt Running for Regional Councillor Brampton Wards 1&5

416-409-4370 • chuck@airlinecargo.ca



Poverty in Brampton or any other part of Canada should be a concern to all residents who are more fortunate. More focus and awareness is

necessary for all citizens of Brampton to help those in need.

The City of Brampton should educate all citizens through media channels to show how this issue continues to grow in our communities.

More social housing is necessary to assist those in need. Fundraising requires innovative means. All citizens of Brampton should put forth their ideas and opinions to create a strong community.

Leslie N. Moss

**Seeking election as councillor
Mississauga Ward 7
lesliemoss333@yahoo.ca • (905) 232-0216**



I call myself the “UN-Politician”. I am an independent, apolitical candidate. As a single father, I have been on social assistance in Peel. I have experienced

firsthand the challenges borne of social injustice and inequality. I am concerned about the disproportionate levels of poverty and unemployment, and the increasing socio-economic divide and crime in Peel, but more so amongst visible minorities and in Ward 7.

I care. You care. Let’s do this, together!

**Norma Nicholson
seeking election as trustee
Peel District School Board
Mississauga Wards 3&4
n.nicholson.a805@rogers.com
(905) 272-1406**



**TO DECREASE
POVERTY IN
PEEL REGION...**
– No one factor can eliminate poverty as this is caused by a myriad of social issues.

A living wage (not minimum wage) for each household where two parents are working would have a major positive impact on decreasing poverty.

In urban areas such as Peel and Toronto, this would mean an earning of \$17.50 per hour for an established working week of 37.5 hours.

Basic needs of life could be met such as housing, food, clothing, education and safety. It is very difficult for children to learn and to reach their potential if sent to school without proper attire and meals.

Grzegorz Nowacki

**Running for councillor in Ward 8,
Mississauga.
g_nowacki@hotmail.com
647 745-7684**



**EVEN BASIC
NEEDS ARE NOT
COVERED** – In my opinion poverty is a major issue and obstacle to livability and sustainability and

economic growth in Peel. Inequality and poverty affects many families and has been underreported.

Ontario Works and ODSP do not even cover basic needs. Social assistance is way below the

poverty line as defined by Statistics Canada. Affordable housing shortage forces people to live in basements and inhuman conditions, because OW and ODSP have not adjusted shelter allowances adequately. Rent increases continue over the years, but governments have not addressed them.

All levels of government should play greater roles to improve livability and sustainability, to fight poverty in our Region.

Michael Palleschi

**seeks re-election as
Regional Councillor
Brampton, Wards 2&6
votepalleschi@yahoo.ca
(905) 497-VOTE (8683)**



**WORKING WITH
OTHER LEVELS
OF GOVERN-
MENT** – In 2016, it was reported that over 175,000 people in our community lacked

safe, stable and appropriate places to live -- a clear indication that intensive work still needs to be done. My plan to continue helping reduce poverty in Peel is deeply rooted in the relationships I have developed with other levels
CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

**ON OCTOBER 22ND
ELECT
BRAD BUTT
COUNCILLOR
FOR WARD 1**

**EXPERIENCE & COMMITMENT
TO GET THINGS DONE**

www.bradbutt.ca

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Authorized by the CFO of the Brad Butt Campaign

Your candidates on POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

of government. I will continue to prioritize social and affordable housing repairs and construction costs, ensure low-income households can access quality childcare, and re-examine investments currently supporting our seniors. Over this last term, I have put in motion Section 37 of the Planning Act, which means more affordable housing and affordable rental housing will be made available to help people get back on their feet.

Jal Panthaky

Running for trustee
Peel District School Board
Mississauga Ward 5
jal_panthaky@yahoo.ca
905-568-4946



I admire *Tough Times*, Peel's only social justice newspaper for championing the poverty issue.

Poverty has a devastating impact on quality of life, and compromises the ability to secure resources needed to maintain positive mental health. People with serious mental illness are affected by poverty.

Peel has an increasing percentage of income disparity and poverty. They include new immigrants, disabled, single parents, and families with young children. Poverty is limited access to income and the inability of individuals and families to live independently.

Besides income, poverty is a lack of essential goods and services, meaningful employment and decent earnings, adequate and affordable housing, safe neighbourhoods

with public amenities, health and well-being, social networks, and basic human rights.

Lisa Pearce

Running for City Councillor
Brampton Ward 6&2
votelisapearce@gmail.com • 289 201-5504



Poverty affects many families in Peel. One in five children here currently lives in poverty. My goal is to minimize and essentially eliminate poverty in the

Region. It is my mission to ensure that no child in Peel has to worry about their next meal. Many people do not have enough money for their basic needs, as social assistance for a single person is about \$730 a month. This has to pay for everything, including food, clothing, and rent. I have children in university who know that no one can live on that little. If elected I will use my position as a city councillor to help those in need.

Princess Boucher

Seeking election as councillor
Brampton Wards 1&5
princess@voteprincessboucher.org
647-618-8596



My vision for Ward 1&5 in Brampton is to use my community experiences to pursue the interests of the diverse population that now resides in

Brampton – consisting of old Bramptonians, migrants from the GTA, young families and new comers. In so doing, I will break away from the past sluggish and bogged down procedures of handling matters of priority to the people. I will constitute a strong advocate at the City Hall, in pursuit of the interests of Wards 1 & 5.

This is my agenda: Security – eradicating gun violence; social facilities and service; housing; employment.

Hugo Reinoso

Candidate for Council
Mississauga Ward 4
Email: hureiward4@gmail.com
(647)972-9121



Regardless of how many services are created to eradicate poverty, there will always be a segment of society that will remain below the poverty line.

Outside of income loss, there are issues such as mental state, substance abuse and family crisis that hinder individuals from maintaining a job or seeking help to overcome poverty.

There are rich people so poor that the only thing they have is money and there are poor people that are rich with support from friends, family, and community. Helping the poor does not mean making them rich, it means providing them with an equal opportunity to succeed.

Sheralyn Roman

seeks election as trustee
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
sromanfortrustee@gmail.com
416-420-9415



I spoke with several parents and educators concerned about cuts to our education system. It was an interesting conversation about systemic inequity and how poverty impacts education.

Lack of access to, and lack of funding for, specialized programming can prevent participation by our most marginalized (and often, at risk) youth. This can have long-lasting and far-reaching effects. It's a concern throughout Peel Region, including in Caledon where it's often assumed poverty doesn't exist. Yet Caledon Community Services and The Exchange exist to address issues of social inequity caused by under-employment, unemployment, inadequate shelter and food insecurity. Caledon's huge geographic area is also a challenge. Poverty can impact educational success.

Sharmila Setaram

seeks to be councillor
Mississauga Ward 1
sharmila@votesharmila.ca
647-490-1290



SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!

The number of people experiencing poverty in Ward 1 continues to rise. Many families struggle to afford

housing and several schools participate in food programs. I have lived experience of poverty and for 20 years have advocated for new laws, policies, and programs to end the cycle.

On August 21, 2018, the federal government launched Opportunity for All, the first Canada-wide poverty reduction strategy. It will hold all levels of government accountable. We must seize this opportunity for the well-being of all residents.

Ward 1 is committed to building a stronger community; let's leave no one behind. Together, we are stronger. Together, we can stop the cycle.

John Sanderson

Candidate for Regional Councillor
Brampton Ward 3&4
johnsanderson4brampton@gmail.com
416 697-6800



RESCUED BY BRAMPTON – My family is no stranger to poverty. In 1958, our family home burnt to the ground. We had no insurance. We were

destitute. But the Brampton community and organizations like the Salvation Army came to our rescue. From that experience, I have always championed social programs in Brampton. Whether it's affordable housing, or strengthening our great Brampton organizations like St. Leonard's Place, Knights Table and the Salvation Army. During my time on Regional Council I always championed social housing in the Region of Peel. I have been and always will work to get the proper assistance to the people and families that need it.

Catherine Soplet

Candidate for trustee
Peel District School Board
Mississauga Ward 1&7
votesoplet@gmail.com • 416-275-9463



FIVE-POINT PLAN – Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) member Catherine Soplet has a five-point platform to help Peel District School Board

students graduate: she will Zap Education Gaps: address math scores; strengthen family and community partnership with schools; make bus schedules reliable; and reduce the dropout rate of students aged 18+.

Since 1996, when her first of four special education children entered school, she knows how disability impairs household budgets and schedules. She noticed that students got better grades when parents and educators traded tips in guided workshops. In November 2010,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

A proud Canadian Union representing workers and promoting community spirit is a commitment we take seriously.

unifor
Local 1285

Your candidates on POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Catherine's second successful workshop grant brought \$23,000 to five high-needs schools in Mississauga and Brampton.

Ron Starr

seeking a third term

Mississauga Ward 6

electronstarr@gmail.com • 905 896-8209



Poverty is an important issue for Mississauga and Peel Region. In 2008, Peel and United Way created the Peel Poverty Reduction Committee to address growing poverty within the Region. Then Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018-2028) was created to ensure that Peel is a livable community for all residents, with income security, economic opportunity, wellbeing and social inclusion for everyone. In 2016, the unemployment rate in Peel for workers between 25 and 64 was at 8.3%. It is currently down to 5.3%. This change is very positive for the Region's poverty strategy, but is not the only solution. With steady growth and increases in immigration more work must be done, including affordable housing.

Radha Tailor

Wants to be a trustee

Peel District School Board

Brampton Wards 3&4

voteradhtailor@gmail.com

647 407-9877



GROWING OUT OF POVERTY

– Our education system must not fail our young people, and we need to provide the resources to help them

lead an independent, flourishing life, to grow out of poverty. This includes nutrition, equitable learning environments, mentorship and educational assistance.

Issues: Stakeholder engagement, including poverty action groups and the Equity and Inclusion Commissioner, to improve the academic and experiential success of marginalized populations; Supporting students with additional programming through Peel District School Board, non-profit and government resources; additional EQAO preparation and improvements; access to nutritional options.

Josephine Tatangelo, R.S.W.

Candidate for City Council

Brampton Ward 1&5

candidate@votejosephine.ca



A GROWING NEED FOR HELP

– Poverty is not a state of mind. Such an idea is a cruel stigma against the poor.

Peel has programs that require needs assessment and adequate funding, and municipal politicians alone cannot tackle a continuously growing need for help.

Provincial and federal funding is required. Discussion should include local business and the private sector.

Identifying personal needs, goals, and abilities of cash-poor people and relating them to the community's goals and activities is not easy. There is no gentle way to collect information leading to funding for food, shelter, medical needs, childcare, and senior care.

Politicians must realize that children are involved.

Mathew Thomas

Seeking election as trustee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Mississauga, Ward: 4

electmathewthomas@gmail.com

905-507-9544



I am running for school trustee because I believe that a strong education system is required to address poverty in our community. Education is the one tool that can

raise us up, allowing all young people to reach their full potential. Mississauga is growing, with hundreds of new families joining our community every year. As your school trustee, I will work hard to remove the inequalities that thousands of students in Peel Region face each day. Whether it is student nutrition, safe transportation or building partnerships with local employers to reduce youth unemployment – I'll be there, working with you.

Cody Vatcher

Running for Regional councillor

Brampton Wards 7&8

codyvatcher@outlook.com • 647-569-2639



A LIFE ON WELFARE – My parents lived off welfare while my mother struggled to raise five children. I often took the lead parenting role, asking my grandparents for

money to put food in our bellies. Mom and Dad loved us like any parent would, but didn't have the life skills to provide us with the tools we needed for life. Dad suffered from reactive depression and often took his anger out on us with his words and his hands. His addiction to cigarettes meant that when money did come our way, that was the priority. It was all that the Vatcher Family knew, and to me, it was normal.

Mokshi Virk

Candidate for City Council

Brampton Wards 7&8

electmokshi@gmail.com

(416) 804-5005



WHAT I WILL DO ABOUT POVERTY

– Poverty is costly, unjust, and demoralizing. About 15% of Peel residents live below the Low Income

Cut-Off (LICO). Unemployment, or low-wage work, lack of skills, insufficient social services, backlog of affordable housing, inability to buy food, transit fares, or medication are realities for some families.

I will work with Council, government, and social agencies on action plans identified in

the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Housing and Homelessness Plan. We need subsidized rentals; reduced transit fares; increased grants to food banks, shelters, and for services to newcomers, veterans, and seniors; more apprenticeship and training options for youth; increased tax credits; and to create more jobs that pay a living wage.

Maqbool Walji

Candidate for councillor

Mississauga Ward 7

maqvote@gmail.com

905 766-3767



STRATEGY FOR CHANGE –

Compared to the rest of Mississauga, Ward 7 households have much lower average income. Strategies I will

implement to combat poverty in ward 7: Focus on youth -- prepare them as future leaders of our community through mentor-ship programs. Ultimately training them for better-paying employment.

Another strategy: Expand affordable housing and expand social housing.

Re-elect Wards 3 & 4 City Councillor

JEFF BOWMAN



What others say:

“Devotes many, many hours to assisting and supporting community organizations.”

“Is someone with an open mind and compassionate heart, someone willing to listen.”

“He continues to advocate tirelessly for many meaningful community causes.”

“He supports so much in the community that it is impossible to list it all.”

Facebook: reelectbowman • Twitter: @reelectbowman • Instagram: reelectbowman

www.reelectbowman.com

Smile Matters



FREE Dental Services for Children

Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded dental program that provides free dental services for eligible children 17 years of age and under, who live in Ontario and are experiencing financial hardship.

Children are automatically enrolled in the program if they receive assistance under Temporary Care Assistance or Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities; OR if they or their family receive Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program.

For more information about the Healthy Smiles Ontario program, visit ontario.ca/healthysmiles

FREE Basic Dental Services for Seniors

The Seniors' Dental Program provides free basic dental services such as cleanings, fillings and dentures, to seniors who qualify.

To be eligible, seniors must meet all six criteria:

- 1) be 65 years or older
- 2) live in Brampton, Caledon or Mississauga
- 3) be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- 4) have no access to any form of dental coverage (including government programs such as Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Ontario Works (OW), and Non-Insured Health Benefits)
- 5) have no previous dental care that was paid for by the Region of Peel's Seniors' Dental Program
- 6) have an income of less than \$20,998* for a one person household or \$25,555* for a two person household

*Income eligibility criteria are updated annually on July 1st.



Call the **Region of Peel – Public Health** at **905-799-7700** to find out if you are eligible.